

## Heritage and Environment

For breathing life back into a very significant Marae and for their contributions to community events the winner of the Heritage and Environment category goes to **Te Runanga O Moeraki**.

There are nearly 6000 members who have geological roots to Moeraki and this collective is charged with looking after and administering their Marae and its affairs as well as upholding its mana for the current generations and those to come.

The Runanaga of Moeraki has adopted a very open approach and they welcome opportunities to educate people on the indigenous people of the land and their history. Groups such as the Waitaki Multicultural Society have welcomed these opportunities and have taken part in noho (or sleepovers) and others have made the most of their Te Reo Maori language classes.

These educational opportunities are also extended to local schools where powhiri processes and local stories have been passed along. Their valuable knowledge and skills are also often resourced for cultural input into documents, events, blessings and much more.

On top of this, for the Runanga of Moeraki the revitalisation of the tributaries of the Waitaki River is very important and the planting of 21,000 trees is well under way to be planted in the Trotters George, Kakanui and Maheno areas.

Over the past three years members of Te Runanga o Moeraki have been working hard to lift the presence of manawhenua within the community, breath life back into the marae and contribute productively to community events. Thank-you for sharing your korero, community spirit and for bringing the community, young and old, together to achieve great things!